

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03097 181506Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8864

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

EUCOM

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 3097

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MARR, TU

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENTS ON U.S. ARMS EMBARGO

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL IN INTERVIEW GIVEN TO TURKISH NEWSPAPER MILLIYET ON APRIL 17 COMMENTED IN GENERALLY MODERATE TERMS ON U.S. ARMS EMBARGO TO TURKEY AND AVOIDED SPECIFYING DEADLINE FOR GOT RETALIATING ACTION.

2. TO QUESTION ON HOW LONG GOVERNMENT WOULD WAIT FOR LIFTING OF EMBARGO, CAGLAYANGIL WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "OF COURSE IT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION TO WAIT INDEFINITELY. WHEN IT APPEARS THAT THE MATTER IS HANGING FIRE OR IF A NEGATIVE STAND DEVELOPS, THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE NO QUESTION OF WAITING ANY LONGER." HE ADDED,
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03097 181506Z

HOWEVER, THAT HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED.

3. CAGLAYANGIL NOTED THAT EMBARGO IS AGAINST BASIC PHILOSOPHY OF U.S. COMMITMENTS AND EVOKES SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT CREDIBILITY OF AMERICAN COMMITMENTS. HE SAID THAT EVEN IF EMBARGO IS LIFTED, "WE WILL CERTAINLY HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT TO WIPE OUT THE DAMAGE TO THE U.S. IMAGE IN TURKEY." IF EMBARGO DECISION IS NOT LIFTED, HE WENT ON, "CONTINUATION OF COOPERATION AT PREVIOUS LEVEL AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE THE CASE."

4. REGARDING EFFECTS OF EMBARGO ON TURKEY-NATO REACTIONS, CAGLAYANGIL SAID TURKEY BELIEVES THAT NATO CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT FOR HER SECURITY. BUT, HE ADDED, SINCE "TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF THE ALLIANCE IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EXISTENCE AND DURABILITY OF AID, CONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO WILL NECESSITATE TURKEY'S READJUSTMENT OF HER CONTRIBUTION IN PROPORTION TO THE DIMINISHED RESOURCES."
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